

October 15, 2021

DOH-CITRUS ADDS SPANISH OPTION TO INFANT FEEDING LINE

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To reduce barriers and improve access to no-cost breastfeeding support, the Florida Department of Health in Citrus County (DOH-Citrus) has added a Spanish option to its Infant Feeding Line (la línea de alimentación infantil).

New Spanish-speaking limited English-proficient (LEP) families in Citrus County can now call 352-513-6060 and select option 2 to speak with an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. The Infant Feeding Line is available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week, for

families who have questions about infant feeding, breastfeeding and pumping.

“The early weeks are some of the most trying times for new parents with infants, especially when it comes to infant feeding concerns and difficulties,” said DOH-Citrus International Board Certified Lactation Consultant Vanessa Verdo. “We know that some families, depending on their race, ethnicity and language, have a harder time accessing the support they need to be successful in their breast/chest feeding journey,” said Verdo. “Providing this new language option will allow us to reach our LEP families and take the steps needed to break down barriers to equitable care.”

In 2017, DOH-Citrus launched the county-wide infant feeding support line to help families through common breastfeeding challenges and to increase breastfeeding rates among Citrus County families. According to FLHealthCharts.com, the percentage of Citrus mothers who initiated breastfeeding in 2019 rose to 77.8 percent from 75 percent in 2017.

For more information about DOH-Citrus, go to www.CitrusCountyHealth.org or follow us on Twitter at [@FLHealthCitrus](https://twitter.com/FLHealthCitrus).

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